HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1 August 2018 in Woodgreen Village Hall, Woodgreen

Present:
Cllr Lucas – Chairman, Cllrs Aitken-Sykes, Hartas and Harrington

In attendance:
Miss K Cleary – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
28 members of the public

1. **To receive apologies for absence –** received from Cllrs Mangan and Templeton.

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest –** all Councillors confirmed the 3 April 2018 declaration in relation to item 5 on the agenda – Housing Consultative Group. As a member of the Village Hall Committee, Cllr Hartas also declared an interest in items 8 – (car park repairs) and 11 (tree application) on the agenda

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 -** The minutes having been previously published were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
   Matters arising from the minutes
   3.1. Cllr Hartas confirmed that the Clerk of the Verderers had responded to a written enquiry from the Parish Council, stating that the Verderers would not administer any Visual Impact compensation scheme. Cllrs Hartas and Lucas approached National Grid for clarification. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Hartas on behalf of the council should arrange a meeting for Commoners to consider compensation issues and requirements for access routes onto the Purlieu. Cllr Lucas to approach National Grid to request that Cllr Hartas attend future stakeholder meetings on behalf of Hale Commoners.
   3.2. The Clerk confirmed that the water leak previously reported on Hale Purlieu had been repaired by the water company on 14th July 2018.
   3.3. The Clerk confirmed that County Cllr Heron had responded to HPC's car park repairs funding request and he was minded to support an application for £1000 from his devolved budget. The Clerk, together with Cllr Hartas to pursue the application process.
   3.4. The Clerk confirmed that the lengthsman attended on 23rd July. An invoice for materials had been received but formal confirmation of work completed was outstanding
   3.5. The Clerk confirmed that she had followed up with National Grid ref proposed tree clearance along Lady's Mile; some trees would be cleared Northwards of the existing pylon crossing, but National Grid would like to leave trees in place wherever possible as screening. National Grid to provide map of the affected area for total clarity. Clerk to follow up. Cllr Lucas still awaiting clarification from National Trust ref proposed management on Hale Purlieu.

4. **To receive any matters (not otherwise on the agenda) raised by members of the public - none**

5. **Members of the public wishing to address the council on agenda matters**
   Eight members of the public wished to address the council; one on item 6 and seven on item 7.

6. **To receive feedback from the Housing Consultative Group meeting including approving draft terms of reference and determining next steps.**
   Chris Fairgrieve (on behalf of Dr Ian Gemell, who was away) reported that the HCG committee met on 10th July and discussed the amended Terms of Reference provided by the Parish Council. Proposed amendments and issues of clarification were provided to the

council on 17th July. To date, response to these amendments had not been received and so the main Group meeting scheduled for 31st July was rescheduled for late September. The Housing Consultative group hoped that agreed Terms of Reference would be available at that date and that a Parish Council member would be present at that meeting.
The HCG noted that they had been asked in the draft terms of reference to consider whether a CLT was the best control vehicle to support affordable housing in Hale and felt any motion to approve Hale CLT as an appropriate vehicle before this feedback was premature.

A Parishioner had written expressing concerns about the potential conflict of interest between CLT directors who were also Parish Councillors. Cllr Harrington also expressed concerns. Cllr Lucas noted that the situation had been specifically considered and approved by the monitoring committee of NFDC. Clerk to send details to Parishioner.

A Parishioner questioned whether Hale CLT had demonstrated the support of the whole community and asked the Parish Council to confirm that they did not wish to be a corporate member of the CLT at this stage.

Cllr Lucas confirmed the Parish Council position was unchanged; that the Parish Council cannot be a member of the CLT as any planning that they might submit has to be considered by people who are not members of the trust.

Cllr Hartas noted that there was overlap between the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council and this had not led to any issues. She wondered if the concern was as a result of the number of parishioners who are currently members of the CLT. Cllr Lucas noted that the Parish Plan Survey had a very high percentage response of people who approved the principle of affordable housing in the village.

Cllr Harrington noted that following County Cllr Heron's advice at the last Parish Council meeting, the immediate focus should be on sorting out suitable sites before considering the best vehicle to manage any housing.

In response to a question from Cllr Harrington, Robert Aitken-Sykes confirmed on behalf of Hale CLT that the CLT currently had 3 sites under active review.

Chris Fairgrieve confirmed on behalf of the HCG that they were happy with the draft terms of reference sent to the Parish Council for consideration on 17th July.

Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hartas and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the HARAH report and the Parish Housing Needs survey clearly demonstrated that there was a need for a level of affordable housing within Hale Parish. All agreed.

Cllr Harrington proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Terms of Reference for the Hale Housing Consultative Group dated 17th July 2018 be agreed. All agreed.

7. To receive an update on the Visual Impact Project on Hale Purlieu and to determine the next steps

Cllr Lucas reported she attended a Stakeholder meeting on 19th July. The views of all Stakeholders were actively represented at the meeting. These meetings had previously been scheduled 'as needs be' but going forwards would be held monthly. The meetings give HPC a chance to collect information first hand and get insight into the different stakeholder thinking.

Cllr Lucas noted that the meeting was dominated by the communication of a new proposed route. This change was as a result of the surveys carried out in evaluating the previous route which highlighted the ecological difficulties involved in crossing the mire. The new route appears to be less challenging in both ecological and engineering terms; the

topography is flatter and the ground is more heathland than valley. As such, restoration is likely to be easier and overall construction time is likely to be reduced. There are still important surveys to be completed but both Natural England and National Trust (who own the land) indicated that they would find it easier to accept this route. However the new route will pass closer to more residents of Hale Parish and as such is likely to increase disruption to residents.

National Grid has already communicated the change in route details to those residents who will be most directly affected and is planning one-on-one sessions. Whilst historic communication from National Grid has been somewhat wanting, they do now want to hear from residents to work out ways of minimising disruption. Hale Parish Council wants to act as an active conduit for feedback and information between National Grid and Hale residents; to ensure that concerns are heard and accurate information is made available to residents. Concerns, questions, expressions of support or opposition should be sent to the Clerk in writing or by email. These will then be monitored and sent to National Grid for response.

The Clerk noted that she had received written feedback in relation to the project from 14 Parishioners in advance of the meeting. Feedback was anonymised and forwarded to all Cllrs for consideration in advance of the meeting but in summary:

13 opposing the scheme. Various objections were cited but included

- disruption and noise to residents, potential damage to residents' houses, inability to use Purlieu for dog walking and exercise
- level of work necessary not justified given expected lifespan of cables
- concerns that restoration would not be successful
- Impact on animals – impact of route fencing on animal movements, loss of grazing
- Costs to be added to utility bills when prices are already rising and people are struggling to pay – better uses of costs include NHS
- Some local residents do not regard the pylons as a visual blight

1 letter was received in support of the scheme, reasons given that the relatively short period of disruption was worthwhile given the unique opportunity to remove the pylons for future generations.

Comments from the floor were invited.

Six Parishioners spoke to object to the scheme. A variety of reasons were given but included:

- Disruption to far more residents in Hale, particularly those on Forest Rd and Tethering Drove (Clerk to pass to National Grid for comment).
- Disruption to male nightjar roosting habits. (Clerk to pass to National Grid for comment/ specialist response).
- Potential disruption of water flow onto the mire from works (Clerk to pass to National Grid for comment/ specialist response)
- Disruption to free movement of animals (Clerk to pass to National Grid for comment, along with points from Cllr Hartas meeting with commoners).
- Access to the forest for the riding stables at Tethering Drove/ Lady's Mile (Clerk to pass to National Grid for comment).

A Parishioner requested that the Clerk source as a priority details of any restrictive covenants for the Parishioners of Hale that were in place upon the transfer of the land to the National Trust. Clerk to follow up.

One member of the public spoke in support of the scheme. She raised concerns that large amounts of 'misinformation' were currently in circulation.

All Cllrs were supportive of Cllr Hartas' plans to hold a meeting to identify specific Commoner concerns and also urged the Clerk to pass (anonymised) all feedback, comments and questions, whether raised in writing or verbally in the Parish Council meeting to National Grid for comment.

Cllr Lucas to continue to push for Parish Council to see examples of previous Alaska restorations. Cllr Lucas also noted that National Grid are looking at preparing a document of 'facts' about current route proposal. Cllr Hartas reported that she had been advised that any planning application would have a 16 week period of consultation. Clerk to clarify position with NFNPA.

Cllr Lucas noted that the Parish Council needed to consider as a matter of some urgency:

- Suitable methods of collecting and disseminating information to Parishioners using existing methods such as the IU email (which has c.130 email subscribers) and the HPC website. Are there any other tools that we should consider. Clerk to follow up
- Possible methods for conducting a comprehensive parish poll if and when any planning application is received. Clerk and Cllr Lucas to follow up.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to allow most members of the public to leave the meeting

8. To receive an update on the Hatchet Green Regeneration project and determine next steps for the permanent car park repairs

Paula Downard had produced a plan of the proposed works for circulation to potential contractors. Cllrs Hartas and Harrington obtained quotes from Earlcote (£6756 +VAT) and Rocon (£9,932.50+VAT). Paula confirmed that James Stewart, who had offered to perform the French drain works at reduced cost, does not already have the necessary insurances. Clerk to ascertain costs of the Council arranging £5-10m All Risks cover. Paula also advised that as well as utility scans, need to review gas maps as utility scans do not show plastic gas pipes and need to consider this.

Cllr Hartas noted that the 'window of opportunity' in the school holidays was rapidly diminishing as the hall is booked for a wedding reception in the second half of August. The Brownies have currently booked the hall for a half term event and would need the car park.

It was unclear whether the Village Hall contribution to costs is a percentage of cost incurred or an outright amount; Cllr Hartas to check. Clerk together with Cllr Hartas to investigate other potential sources of funds e.g lottery and to apply to County Cllr Heron's discretionary fund.

Cllr Lucas thanked Paula Downard on behalf of whole Parish Council for continuing to offer her time and expertise to help with the repair project.

9. To consider the application received for a memorial to George Cowan Fleming

Councillors reviewed the application received by the council on the 27th July and noted that the memorial met the size guidelines set out in the current cemetery regulations. Cllr Aitken-Sykes proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the memorial be approved as per the application dated 20th July 2018. All agreed.

10. To review and comment on the New Forest District Plan

Councillors had reviewed the New Forest District Plan dated and noted that the plan was focussed on areas outside of the National Park and therefore outside of the Parish. No formal comment was required on the report.

11. To consider the following tree works application:

Case Ref: CONS/18/0640

Proposed Works: Coppice mixed tree species bordering plot to form a hedge; Coppice 2 x Hazel trees, Coppice 2 x Willow trees; Fell 2 x Birch trees; Fell 1 x Hawthorn tree; Prune 1 x Oak tree; Prune 1 x Beech tree
Site Address: Moodys Plot, Hatchet Green, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NE

The tree warden had inspected the trees and advised that he had no objection to the work proposed. The inspection revealed that one tree requiring attention had erroneously not been included in the application and therefore another application for the same site may be forthcoming. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Aitken-Sykes and therefore **RESOLVED**: that there be no objection to the works proposed. All agreed.

12. To receive the clerk's report –
Most areas covered in items above but the Clerk reported that there were two items that needed review in the Sept meeting:

- Impact of GDPR regulations on current activities and
- Budget and financial review

13. Correspondence – all covered within sections above

14. To consider any matter referred by the Planning Committee - none

15. To consider and approve the following payments:

01.08.18	Cutting Edge (cemetery maintenance July 18)	£ 170.00
23.08.18	Clerk Salary	£ 330.17

It was proposed by Cllr Hartas and seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the payments be approved. All agreed.

16. To approve the accounts for June 2018 and to record the bank balances - approved

17. Any other business - none

18. To note the date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 7.30pm** at **Hale Village Hall**

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 10.18pm

Signed: Date: 4 September 2018
Chairman

Clerk: Miss Kathy Cleary, 5 Saddlers Close, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AE
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